

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the reason I am standing here is to engage the chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee in a colloquy.

First of all, I want to just take a second to commend Chairman HOBSON and the ranking member and the Appropriations Subcommittee staff for their outstanding work in the difficulty in bringing some of these measures before the floor, for their hard work.

Mr. Chairman, my Florida district includes the coastline along Flagler County, which has been dramatically devastated by recent hurricanes and damaging storms. The beach has steadily eroded; and sections of our historic and scenic national highway A1A have been washed away by the storms. Because some of the road has fallen into the Atlantic Ocean, the Florida Department of Transportation has installed a temporary seawall in those areas.

Initially, we had some problems in reaching a local consensus on the best way to restore the beach and secure this scenic and coastal highway. However, with hurricane season approaching, if this vital highway falls, our only emergency route in this area could be lost.

Earlier this month, I brought together our local leaders and decision-makers to discuss the problem and identify solutions. A consensus has been reached that we must complete a feasibility study and cooperate with the Corps of Engineers so the critical restoration work can be expedited. State and local officials will also be working together with Federal officials to explore cost-effective alternative restoration technologies.

I would like to, finally, ask the chairman if he would continue to work with me on this very important project for my district and also in conference to provide the critical resources to protect and restore the coastal areas and devastated beaches in Flagler County, Florida.

Mr. HOBSON. I have seen the pictures that you have given me, and I certainly understand the problem there in Florida. We will try to work with you every way we can. Because I have

seen it. It has fallen in, and it has got to be fixed.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman and the subcommittee.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to take this opportunity to praise Chairman HOBSON and the ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, for putting together this well-balanced bill. I applaud the chairman for his efforts in bringing this measure to the floor.

I rise, though, to ask a question of you, Mr. Chairman, because I am concerned with the provision added to the bill during the committee markup. The bill as currently written provides \$10 million for the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. This program is devoted to the advancement and usage of alternative fuels.

In my home State of New Hampshire, the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition has done wonderful things, including the construction of a biodiesel filling station for off-road vehicles, support for the development of 10 public on-road biodiesel fueling stations, and the creation of natural gas refueling stations for the University of New Hampshire's bus fleet.

At a time when gasoline is well above \$3 a gallon, I believe now more than ever we need to support programs that promote the use of alternative fuels and vehicles. However, during the committee markup, a provision was added that would set aside \$8 million of the Clean Cities \$10 million for E-85 ethanol infrastructure.

While I fully support the development of new E-85 stations, however, the Clean Cities Program has always been fuel neutral, awarding funds through a competitive process based on the merit of each project. I fear that allocating 80 percent of the program's funds for only one type of alternative fuel alters the competitive intent of that program.

Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully ask to be able to work with you during the committee of conference to try and rectify this issue. I thank you for yielding.

Mr. HOBSON. We will work with you. But I want you to understand that this was part of an amendment we accepted because we do want to encourage more E-85 use, and we were getting some complaints that there was not enough money out there.

But I understand what it has done to this program. In conference we will try to work to see if we can get some more money on the program.

Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. HOBSON. I would like to yield back on that and strike the last word if I might.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOBSON. Let me take just a moment to say that this has been a very spirited debate out here this evening. But I think at the end of the day we have got a good bill. I would encourage support for the committee's positions.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have cut back the number of earmarks this year in an amount of over \$200 million. We have stayed within our 302(b) amount, and we have tried to take on the administration where we think appropriate, because I do not think everything they do is correct.

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On the other hand, I do not think everything we do is correct, and we try to take that on where we can.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOBSON. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I appreciate the chairman yielding, and I appreciate your leadership on this bill.

This is a finely crafted piece of legislation and, again, I congratulate the Chair and all the members of the committee and the staff, and I would encourage the membership to strongly support this legislation. It has been a pleasure to work with the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HOBSON. Thank you. I appreciate working with you, too, sir.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. McHUGH, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES ACT

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5037) to amend titles 38 and 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain demonstrations at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration and at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.